

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

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TAGS: NATO, PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: EX-FM PALAMAS VIEWS EUROPE'S COLLECTIVE

WEAKNESSES

REF: ATHENS 786

1. SUMMARY: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER XANTHOPOULOS-PALAMAS PUBLISHED ANALYSIS "MYTH" OF UNITED EUROPE DESCRIBING EEC AS RESEMBLING "BUSINESS CONCERN" AND CONCEPT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS EXERCISE IN WISHFUL THINKING. HE ATTRIBUTED EUROPE'S POST WWII SURVIVAL TO U.S. ASSISTANCE AND EUROPE'S SECURITY TODAY TO NATO WHICH WILL WEAKEN SHOULD "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WAR ON U.S. CONTINUE..." PALAMAS LINKED GREECE'S FATE WITH THAT OF EUROPE BUT STRESSED THAT GREECE'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMON MARKET HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED ONLY WHEN BENEFICIAL TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING REALITY OF EUROPE IS THAT IT REPRESENTS COMPOSITE OF SEPARATE FATHERLANDS WHERE POLITICAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS ARE BEST CONDUCTED BY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TWO LENGTHY FEATURES PUBLISHED IN ELEFThEROS COSMOS

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(PRO-GOG) FEBRUARY 3 AND 5, 1974, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER

PALAMAS (PAPADOPOULOS GOVERNMENT 1970-72 AND MARKEZINIS 1973) REVIEWED EUROPEAN POLICIES AND PRESENT STATUS OF EUROPE OF FATHERLANDS. IN INTRODUCTION PALAMAS STRESSED THAT AFTER WORLD WAR II EUROPE WAS SAVED BY AMERICAN DOLLAR WHICH EUROPE NOW DESPISES. HE NOTED THAT EUROPE HAS NEVER SUCCUMBED TO DOMINATION BY ONE STATE OR ONE IDEOLOGY OWING TO STRONG NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS. "EUROPE WAS NOT SAVED HOWEVER BY A EUROPEAN CONSCIOUSNESS." AFTER DESCRIBING THE ROOTS OF EUROPEANISM THROUGH MONNET AND SCHUMANN, PALAMAS OBSERVED THAT GREAT REALITY WAS THAT NATIONAL FEELINGS TRIUMPHED OVER EUROPEAN COLLECTIVE AWARENESS.

3. TURNING TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION, EX-FOREIGN MINISTER PALAMAS DESCRIBED EEC AS CUSTOMS UNION RESEMBLING AN ENTERPRISE OR BUSINESS CONCERN, EACH MEMBER SERVING ITS OWN INTERESTS. PALAMAS DERIDED EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU TO ENCOURAGE COLLECTIVE POLITICAL MENTALITY WHICH RESULTED ONLY IN AGREEMENT THAT EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD MEET FOUR TIMES RATHER THAN TWICE ANNUALLY. HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WESTERN EUROPE SPOKE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AS ITS SOLE CREED, EUROPE ALSO SPAWNED FASCISM, COMMUNISM, AND NAZISM. HE CHARACTERIZED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS A WISH TO BE MATERIALIZED AT LATER TIME.

4. CONCERNING NATO, PALAMAS EMPHASIZED THAT EUROPEAN SECURITY IS ORGANIZED AROUND ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WHICH INVOLVES EXTRA-EUROPEAN FACTORS. "NATO HAVING BEEN WEAKENED POLITICALLY BY WESTERN EUROPEANS AND BY MORAL DECLINE OF SOME OF ITS MEMBERS HAS ONLY REDUCED POSSIBILITIES." ACCORDING TO PALAMAS, NATO WILL SUFFER FURTHER DECAY SHOULD POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WARFARE AGAINST UNITED STATES BE CONTINUED IN COMPLIANCE WITH DICTATES OF WESTERN EUROPEAN INTERESTS. HE QUERIED WHO WILL FILL THE GAP, "NOT THE EUROPEAN ARMY, WHICH DOES NOT EXIST AS YET, NOR THE EUROPEAN SOLDIER, WHO IS NOT YET BORN." VENTURING INTO ALTERNATIVES OF EUROPE WITHOUT U.S. SUPPORT, PALAMAS SUGGESTED CHINA COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT.

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5. PALAMAS CONCLUDED BY NOTING GREECE GEOGRAPHICALLY AND IDEOLOGICALLY BELONGS TO EUROPE, DESPITE PETTY POLITICS AFFLICTING CONTINENT OF SELF-SERVING NATION-STATES. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED GREECE'S UNION WITH COMMON MARKET, BUT AGREEMENT WAS NOT INITIALLY HONORED FULLY BY GREECE AND BY EEC SUBSEQUENTLY. "IT IS NOW IMPLEMENTED ONLY IN THOSE ASPECTS BENEFICIAL TO EUROPEAN

COUNTRIES." PALAMAS TERMED GREECE'S INTEREST BEST SERVED THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GREECE AND ITS PARTNERS SINCE EUROPE IS DIVIDED AND NATO IS FUNDAMENTALLY DEPENDENT ON U.S. "NATO GUARANTEED NATIONAL DEFENSE IS FOREMOST IMPORTANCE TO GREECE WHICH HAS DOUBLE SIGNIFICANCE... MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC. WE TRUST DIPLOMATIC WILL PREVAIL."

6. COMMENT: EDITORIALS OF PALAMAS, RETIRED CAREER DIPLOMAT AND ONE OF NATION'S LEADING EXPERTS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAY REFLECT QUESTIONING ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROPE OF NEW GREEK REGIME. GUARDIAN ARTICLE FEBRUARY 6 BY DAVID TONGE REFERRED TO ANTI-EUROPEAN SENTIMENTS OF NEW JUNTA LEADERS WHO HAVE OBJECTED TO EUROPEAN CRITICISM "WHICH ONLY SERVES TO INCREASE ISOLATIONIST TENDENCIES WITHIN ARMY... ALTHOUGH NOT WHERE LINKS WITH U.S. OVER DEFENSE ARE CONCERNED."
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